

METHOD FOR GAIN CONTROL OF FIBEROPTIC REPEATING SYSTEM

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a fiberoptic repeating
5 system, and more particularly to a method for a gain control in a
fiberoptic repeating system in a communication system.

Background of the Invention

Generally, areas such as mountains, valleys and underground
receive a weak transmission or are isolated completely from any
radio waves due to the geographical situation. Thus, many base
stations must be constructed to provide communication services in
these shaded areas, requiring costly equipments and management.
As the demand for communication services rises, the cost also
increases, thereby creating a problem.

As one solution to this problems, a fiberoptic repeating
system has been proposed and is currently being used
commercially. However, a considerable amount of signal damping
results in the optical cables of such a fiberoptic repeating
20 system. Therefore, to compensate the signal damping, a gain
control unit has also been proposed for the fiberoptic repeating
system.

A fiberoptic repeating system in the related art generally
includes a base station 1, a master repeater 2, and one of a

plurality of a slave repeaters 3, as shown in Fig. 1. The slave repeater 3 receives and/or transmits RF signals within a remote region, and the master repeater 2 relays data between the base station 2 and the slave repeater 3.

5 More specifically, the master repeater 2 includes a driver amplifier 20 which amplifies an RF signal transmitted from the base station 1; an optic/RF converter 23 which converts from an amplified RF signal received through the driver amplifier 20 into an optic signal for transmission through an optical cable 4 or from an optic signal transmitted through the optical cable 4 into an RF signal; a master repeater controller 21 which monitors an operational state of the elements of the master repeater 2, controls the operation of the master repeater 2 or the slave repeater 3 according to a control signal of the base station 1, detects a level of RF signal amplified through the driver amplifier 20 and outputs the detected level as a digital reference value; and a MODEM 22 which modulates the output of the master repeater controller 21 and transmits the output to the slave repeater 3 side through the optic/RF converter 23.

20 The slave repeater 3 includes an optic/RF converter 31 which converts an optic signal transmitted through the optical cable 4 into an RF signal or converts an RF signal received through a receiving antenna into an optic signal for transmission through the optical cable 4; a driver amplifier 30 and a high-power

amplifier 34 which amplifies an output of the optic/RF converter 31; a low noise amplifier 35 which amplifies the RF signal received through the receiving antenna and transmits the amplified RF signal to the optic/RF converter 31; a MODEM 32 which demodulates the digital reference signal received through the optic/RF converter 31; and a slave repeater controller 33 which detects a level of the RF signal received through the optic/RF converter 31, compares the detected level with a digital reference value transmitted through the MODEM 32, and adjusts a gain level of the driver amplifier 30 to compensate the difference.

The signal transmission and reception operations in the fiberoptic system of Fig. 1 is as follows.

An RF signal is received through a receiving antenna of the slave repeater 3 and is amplified by a constant level through the low noise amplifier 35. The amplified RF signal is then transmitted to the base station 1 via the optic/RF converters 31 and 23. Thereafter, the base station 1 transmits a corresponding RF signal to an appropriate terminal of a receiving party via the master repeater 2 and the slave repeater 3.

Particularly, the RF signal transmitted by the base station 1 is amplified by a constant level through the driver amplifier 20, and is converted into an optic signal through the optic/RF converter 23. Also, the master repeater controller 21

periodically detects a level of the RF signal output from the driver amplifier 20, converts the detected level into a digital MODEM RF signal level, modulates the digital MODEM RF signal level through the MODEM 22, and transmits the modulated digital MODEM RF signal level through the optic/RF converter 23.

The optic signal transmitted by the optic/RF converter 23 is demodulated into a digital MODEM RF signal through the optic/RF converter 31 and the MODEM 32 of the slave repeater 3, and is input to the slave repeater controller 33. The slave repeater controller 33 stores the level of the digital MODEM RF signal as a reference level. Also, the optic signal transmitted by the optic/RF converter 23 is converted into a RF signal through the optic/RF converter 31 and input to the driver amplifier 30. Thus, the slave repeater controller 33 converts the RF signal input to the driver amplifier 30 into a digital signal, compares the level of the digital signal with the reference level, and controls a gain level of the driver amplifier 30 to compensate a damping of the RF signal level by the differential value. Accordingly, the RF signal with a compensated signal level is amplified into a radio-transmittable level by the high power amplifier 34, and is transmitted to a corresponding terminal through the transmission antenna.

Furthermore, the master repeater controller 21 of the master repeater 2 and the slave repeater controller 33 of the slave

repeater 3 respectively monitor the operational states of
elements 20~23 and 31~35. Accordingly, when a specific control
signal, e.g. a gain control signal of the slave repeater 3, is
transmitted from the base station 1 to the master repeater 2, the
5 master repeater controller 21 modulates the corresponding gain
control signal through the MODEM 22 and transmits the modulated
gain control signal to the slave repeater 3. The slave repeater
controller 33 demodulates the gain control signal through the
MODEM 32, reads the content of the gain control signal and
10 controls a gain of the driver amplifier 30.

In the fiberoptic repeating system as described above, the
RF signal levels are periodically detected and become reference
signals for calculation of the damping rates of the RF signal
levels to compensate the gain damping. Thus, the intervals for
the periodic detection of the reference levels must be short in
5 order to deal with the frequent change of the RF signal levels.
As a result, the control operations of a base station cannot
always be executed for each determination of the reference level
within the given interval.

Summary of the Invention

Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to solve
at least the problems and disadvantages of the related art.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide a

method for a gain control of a fiberoptic repeating system capable of frequently monitoring the signal levels of an optical cable, without influencing the control operation of a base station, to thereby compensating a damping the signal levels.

5 Additional advantages, objects, and features of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and in part will become apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art upon examination of the following or may be learned from practice of the invention. The objects and
10 advantages of the invention may be realized and attained as particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

To achieve the objects and in accordance with the purposes of the invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, a method for gain control in a fiberoptic repeating system composed
15 of a base station, a master repeater and a slave repeater comprises: detecting MODEM modulation signal levels of the master repeater transmitted via an optical cable from a controller of the slave repeater; comparing the MODEM modulation signal levels with a reference level and calculating the differential values;
20 and controlling a gain of the amplifier for an RF signal amplification so as to correspond to the calculated differential value, and compensating the damping of RF signals transmitted from the master repeater to the slave repeater.

Brief Description of the Drawing

The invention will be described in detail with reference to the following drawings in which like reference numerals refer to like elements wherein:

5 Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a fiberoptic repeating system in the related art; and

Sub C1 Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a fiberoptic repeating system in accordance with the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

10 Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the construction of the fiberoptic repeating system according to the present invention. Referring to Fig. 2, the present fiberoptic repeating system includes a master repeater 2 and a slave repeater 3 with respectively the same elements 20~23 and 30~35 as the master repeater 2 and the slave repeater 3 of the fiberoptic repeating system of Fig. 1. In the present fiberoptic repeating system, however, the amplified level of RF signal within the master repeater 2 is not detected. Also, the level of RF signal input to the driver amplifier 30 is not detected from the RF signal reception line. In the present invention, the modulated MODEM

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signal output by the optical/RF converter 31 is detected.

The remaining functions of elements 20~23 and 30~35 of the present fiberoptic repeating system in Fig. 2 operates in the same manner as the corresponding elements of the fiberoptic repeating system as described with reference to Fig. 1. The transmission and reception operations of signals in the fiberoptic repeating system according to the present invention is as follows.

An RF signal is received through a receiving antenna of the slave repeater 3 and is amplified by a constant level through the low noise amplifier 35. The amplified RF signal is then transmitted to the base station 1 via the optic/RF converters 31 and 23. Thereafter, the base station 1 transmits a corresponding RF signal to an appropriate terminal of a receiving party via the master repeater 2 and the slave repeater 3.

The RF signal transmitted by the base station 1 is amplified by a constant level through the driver amplifier 20, and is converted into an optic signal through the optic/RF converter 23. Also, a modulated MODEM signal of a constant level is output from the MODEM 22 unless the master repeater controller 21 transmits a control signal of the base station 1. Thus, the modulated MODEM signal of a predetermined level is mixed with the RF signal from the driver amplifier 20 and converted into an optic signal through the optic/RF converter 23.

The optic signal converted by the optic/RF converter 23 is damped by a constant level during the transmission through the optical cable 4. The damped optical signal is converted into an electric signal, and is separated into an RF signal and a modulation MODEM signal through the optic/RF converter 31. Subsequently, the RF signal is transmitted to a driver amplifier 30 through an interior transmission line, and the modulated MODEM signal is transmitted to the slave repeater controller 33 through the MODEM 32.

In the preferred embodiment, the output level of the MODEM 22 is a predetermined value, which is known by the slave repeater controller 33, unless the master repeater controller 21 transmits a control signal of the base station 1. Thus, after detecting a level of the modulated MODEM signal damped through the optical cable 4, a difference between the modulated MODEM signal level and the output level of the MODEM 22 can be obtained.

Because the signals are transmitted through the same optical cable 4, the modulated MODEM signal and the RF signal are affected by a same damping rate. Accordingly, the slave repeater controller 33 controls an amplification gain of the driver amplifier 30 using the obtained difference between the modulated MODEM signal level and the output level of the MODEM 22. Namely, the slave repeater controller 33 controls the amplification gain to increase the RF signal level by the obtained difference,

thereby compensating the damped signal level.

Therefore, RF signal transmitted to the driver amplifier 30 is amplified by the amplification gain controlled by the slave repeater controller 33, and is also amplified in a radio-transmissible signal level through a high power amplifier 34. The amplified RF signal is then transmitted to a corresponding terminal through a transmission antenna.

The master repeater controller 21 of the master repeater 2 and the slave repeater controller 33 of the slave repeater 3 respectively monitor the operational state of elements 20~23 and 30~35. Moreover, when a specific control signal, e.g. a gain control signal of the slave repeater 3, is transmitted from the base station 1 to the master repeater 2, the master repeater controller 21 of the master repeater 2 modulates the corresponding gain control signal through the MODEM 22 and transmits it to the slave repeater 3. Thereafter, the slave repeater 3 demodulates it through the MODEM 32, reads the content of the control and controls a gain of a corresponding driver amplifier 30.

In sum, in the method for gain control in the fiberoptic repeating system of present invention, consequently, a MODEM modulated signal of a constant level is always detected regardless of a signal transmission from the base station. This allows a knowledge of a damping rate, and according to that, an

amplification gain is controlled. Therefore, a fast gain compensation can be executed to increase the efficiency in a signal transmission.

The foregoing embodiments are merely exemplary and are not to be construed as limiting the present invention. The present teachings can be readily applied to other types of apparatuses. The description of the present invention is intended to be illustrative, and not to limit the scope of the claims. Many alternatives, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art.